

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ACCRA 06875 170820Z

12

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /050 W

----- 039302

P 170713Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4410

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ACCRA 6875

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR GH US

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ATTACK ON SECRETARY

REF: ACCRA 6863

1. REFTTEL GIVES TEXT OF STINGING EDITORIAL ATTACK ON THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY PUBLISHED IN GHANAIAAN TIMES SEPTEMBER 16. FOLLOWING REPORTS ACTION TAKEN BY THIS EMBASSY.

2. CHARGE CALLED E.M. DEBRAH, SECRETARY TO SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (AND FORMER GHANAIAAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON) TO EXPRESS HIS DISGUST THAT SUCH "GARBAGE" WOULD BE CARRIED IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED PAPER. DEBRAH EXPRESSED CONCERN, NOTED HE HAD ALSO BEEN VICTIM OF EDITOR'S VENOM AND RECOMMENDED LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. CHARGE CALLED DEBRAH BOTH TO REGISTER CONCERN AT HIGHEST LEVEL AND TO PROVIDE AMMUNITION TO DEBRAH'S EFFORTS TO GET RID OF EDITOR (K. GYAWU-KYEM).

3. CHARGE SENT FOLLOWING LETTER TO EDITOR: BEGIN TEXT:

THE PERSONAL ATTACK ON SECRETARY KISSINGER WHICH APPEARED IN YOUR EDITORIAL OF SEPTEMBER 16 BRINGS NO CREDIT TO THE GHANAIAAN TIMES. THE EDITORIAL ALSO SHOWS A COMPLETE LACK OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ACCRA 06875 170820Z

UNDERSTANDING OF THE PURPOSE OF THE SECRETARY'S CURRENT TRIP TO

SOUTHERN AFRICA.

TO ATTACK AN AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE AS A "QUISLING" AND AS A "GERMAN JEW WHO...MASQUERADES IN THE GARB OF ONE OF THE HIGHEST OFFICES IN AMERICA" IS TO SUBSTITUTE THE CRUEST FORM OF PREJUDICE AND INVECTIVE FOR REASONED DEBATE. SURELY, IF SUCH PERSONAL AFFRONTS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST GHANAIAN OFFICIALS BY THE AMERICAN PRESS, THE GHANAIAN TIMES AND THE PEOPLE OF GHANA WOULD UNDERSTANDABLY VOICE STRONG OBJECTIONS. I MUST THEREFORE PROTEST THIS VENOMOUS ATTACK AND MUST URGE YOUR PAPER TO HOLD FAST TO THE HIGH STANDARDS OF JOURNALISM TO WHICH IT PRESUMABLY ASPIRES.

IN LARGER TERMS, I MUST ALSO POINT OUT THAT THE EDITORIAL MISSES THE POINT OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. FAR FROM BEING A "DANGEROUS ENEMY OF THE AFRICAN LIBERATION STRUGGLE", AS THE EDITORIAL ALLEGES, SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF TO RAPID BUT IF POSSIBLE PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO THE DIFFICULT ISSUES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

I NOTE WITH REGRET THAT THE UNITED STATES WHICH HAS BEEN CRITICIZED IN THE PAST FOR NOT BECOMING MORE INVOLVED WITH THESE SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES IS NOW CRITICIZED FOR DOING THAT VERY THING. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE TIMES' PRIME CONCERN IS IN ATTACKING THE UNITED STATES AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE WHO SPEAKS FOR IT RATHER THAN SUPPORTING ANY EFFORTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS. ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO AGREE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RATIONALE, ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO APPROVE HIS METHODS, ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO BELIEVE IN HIS SUCCESS, ONE DOES NOT EVEN HAVE TO TRUST HIS MOTIVATIONS; BUT IT IS HARD TO CONCEIVE THAT ANY RATIONAL AFRICAN WOULD REJECT HIS STATED OBJECTIVES.

PRESIDENT NYERERE OF TANZANIA -- WHO, I ASSUME, IS NOT TO BE FOUND ON YOUR LIST OF "BRIBABLE STOOGES IN HIGH POSITIONS OF TRUST IN AFRICA" -- HAS EXPRESSED AN HONEST AND CANDID SKEPTICISM OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS IN THE SECRETARY'S MISSION. BUT HE HAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE U.S. INITIATIVE "HAS POSITIVE ASPECTS WHICH CAUSE TANZANIA AND THE FRONT-LINE STATES TO WELCOME KISSINGER; NAMELY, AMERICAN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA, AMERICAN PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF APARTHEID, AND AMERICAN ABILITY TO APPLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ACCRA 06875 170820Z

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURES." IF HE AND HIS FRONT-LINE COLLEAGUES, WHO ARE MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED, CAN WELCOME THE EFFORT, SURELY GHANAIS CAN SUPPORT THEM AND THEIR HOPES.

I TRUST YOU WILL PROMPTLY PRINT THIS LETTER IN FULL. END TEXT.

4. CHARGE SENT COPY OF LETTER TO EDITOR, ALSO TO COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLI NOTING, INTER ALIA, IN COVERING

LETTER; BEGIN QUOTE: THE GHANAIAAN TIMES IS SUBSCRIBED TO AND
READ BY MY COLLEAGUES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN WASHINGTON.
WHILE THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA DOES NOT
PRESCRIBE THE PAPER'S EDITORIAL POLICIES, THEY ARE, OF COURSE,
AWARE THAT THE PAPER IS OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT. I FEEL CERTAIN,
HOWEVER, THAT I MAY SAFELY REASSURE THEM THAT SUCH EDITORIALS
DO NOT REPRESENT THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA. END
QUOTE. COPY OF CHARGE LETTER ALSO SENT PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION IN ABSENCE OF COMMISSIONER KOTEI WHO IS OUT
OF THE COUNTRY.

5. PAO WHO HAND CARRIED LETTER TO TIMES EDITOR REPORTS THAT
LATTER SAID TEXT OF CHARGE'S LETTER WILL BE PRINTED IN FULL IN
SEPTEMBER 18 ISSUE OF TIMES. WE SHALL SEE. LINEHAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ACCRA06875
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760351-0072
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760951/aaaabrfs.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ACCRA 6863
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL ATTACK ON SECRETARY
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, GH, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (DEBRAH, E M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006